

Mason Gross SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER



Thinking
BIG

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

ALSO INSIDE

- Tribute to William "Prof" Fielder
- Extension Division camps it up
- Broadway-bound alumni
- Dance extends into graduate studies



Supporting Smart Growth

Were you one of an estimated 106.5 million people who watched Super Bowl XLIV? If so, you saw 65 musicians from the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and Rutgers Sinfonia appearing with the legendary rapper Jay-Z in a dazzling Super Bowl music-video teaser. As Mason Gross flutist Melissa Healy said: “Jay-Z and his people were impressed with our playing. He can pretty much hire anyone in the world.” But he turned to Mason Gross.

This high-profile collaboration is just one example of how the Mason Gross School is growing in prominence, as students and faculty take advantage of the unique performance and educational opportunities that we can offer. The MFA Graduate Exhibition is taking place this month at White Box in Lower Manhattan. Promising BFA Theater Arts students continue to hone their skills with master teachers at Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London. And in May, BFA student choreographer Lauren Connolly will present her work onstage at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in a modern dance featuring Mason Gross School students.

As our stature rises, so do our ambitions. We’ve just opened an arts-based residence hall that allows our students to live together and collaborate 24/7, we’ve established an Extension Division that makes our programming accessible to children and families in Central New Jersey, and we’ve gone global by emerging as a leader in online arts instruction. This growth at Mason Gross is even more remarkable in light of the steep economic downturn our nation continues to face in 2010.

But here on campus the future looks bright: For the present academic year Mason Gross accepted just 15% of applicants, making it the most selective school at Rutgers. For 2010, applications are up 13.5 % over last year. As I write, we are screening candidates for the school’s first designated admissions director. This director will focus fully on school admissions and recruitment, helping us develop strategies that will be effective in the arts world of the 21st century.

The Mason Gross School is committed to growth—but smart growth. We do not want to sacrifice the dynamic give-and-take between students and professors that has been a hallmark of our training.

Our goal is to become, in carefully calculated steps, bigger *and* better.

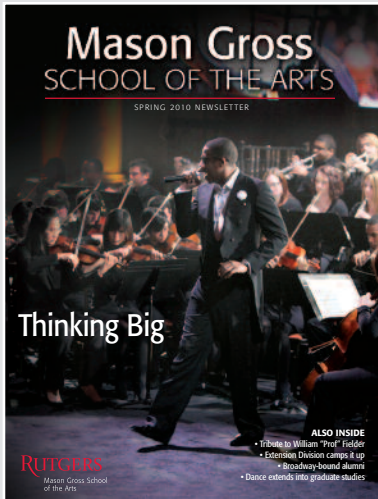
— George B. Stauffer, Dean

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ON THE COVER: Members of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and Rutgers Sinfonia pictured with rapper Jay-Z in a Super Bowl XLIV music-video taping session on Feb. 2, 2010, at The Capitale in Lower Manhattan.

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GET CONNECTED

We're social – and we're networking. Follow Mason Gross School of the Arts on Twitter and Facebook and receive updates about students, faculty, alumni and events on and off campus.



This newsletter is published for alumni, faculty, students, donors, and friends of Mason Gross School of the Arts. Your letters and comments are welcome. Please write to alumni@masongross.rutgers.edu or to Mason Gross Newsletter, Mason Gross School of the Arts, 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Rapper Jay-Z holds The Vince Lombardi Trophy aloft during the recording of a Super Bowl music-video teaser with members of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and Rutgers Sinfonia.

Thinking big

Mason Gross takes a great leap forward

In the late 1970s, the Mason Gross School's scrappy Visual Arts Department set up shop in a deserted downtown New Brunswick department store, while the Theater Arts Department produced shows in the Camp Kilmer Officers Club. Only two students were enrolled in the Master's of Music program, and Dance, once part of the Physical Education Department at Douglass College, began with three fulltime faculty members.

From the outset, the school served as a dynamic creative laboratory in which fledgling artists were encouraged to ply their craft with daring and discipline.

Much has changed over three-and-a-half decades, but the Mason Gross School's commitment to nurturing and guiding thinking artists has remained constant.

Mason Gross accepted just 15% of

applicants for the present academic year and is now the most selective school at Rutgers University. At the same time, Mason Gross enrolled its largest entering class ever, admitting 309 new students for fall 2009. Applications for fall 2010 are up 13.5% over last year. As enrollment expands, so do the possibilities for imaginative new collaborations.

They'll take Manhattan

The Mason Gross School's vitality as an arts hub has always been about location, location, location: Its proximity to New York City, an undisputed cultural mecca, has shaped the careers of students and faculty alike.

During this school year alone, Mason Gross faculty and students have taken on Manhattan – and a wide swath of the TV viewing audience – in new and unexpected ways.

Members of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and Rutgers Sinfonia, led by Maestro Kynan Johns, appeared with the rapper Jay-Z in a Super Bowl music-video teaser recorded in Lower Manhattan. The Super Bowl XLIV broadcast on Sunday, February 7, 2010, was viewed by an estimated 106.5 million people, making it the most-watched program in television history.

In November, the Rutgers Drumline and Color Guard, led by Tim Smith, plunged into the hubbub of Times Square as they performed for the grand opening of an American Eagle Outfitters store. Less than two weeks later, the Rutgers



The Rutgers University Marching Scarlet Knights hold court at Madison Square Garden in December.

University Marching Scarlet Knights, also led by Smith, held court in Madison Square Garden, entertaining the crowds during halftime of a New York Knicks basketball game.

Continued on next page

You Tube™

Watch It On YouTube!

Catch Jay-Z's Super Bowl video with members of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and Rutgers Sinfonia online at: www.youtube.com. Enter "Jay-Z" and "Rutgers."

This month, the Visual Arts Department mounts a gallery show on the Lower East Side. BFA and MFA acting students are heading to several theaters this semester for their annual presentations to casting directors, managers, and agents. And come spring 2011, the Dance Department will return to the renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Flutist Melissa Healy, a third-year DMA candidate, says appearing with Jay-Z on the CBS *Super Bowl Kickoff Show* is a prime example of the numerous possibilities available to Mason Gross students.

"Your location is very key to a freelance career," Healy says. "Being closer to New York City gives you opportunities. It's probably one of the biggest cities in the world for freelancing opportunities." Not only that, but as Healy points out, "Jay-Z and his people were impressed with our playing. He can pretty much hire anyone in the world."

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*— Kynan Johns,
director of orchestras*

Kynan says Rutgers dares to take a wide variety of artistic opportunities.

"At Rutgers we are a little more realistic and trying to break down barriers between popular culture and the perceived elitism of classical music," says Johns, director of orchestras at Mason Gross. "In music we tend to be more academic, to try to do things 'right.' What is 'right?'"

Johns says Rutgers prepares adaptable artists who can make the transition from Lincoln Center to the streets of Midtown to the half-court line at Madison Square Garden.

"One has to be versatile these days. You have to be able to teach, be ready for session work, to do whatever is required," he says. "One has to be able to do as

much as possible to make a living in the arts in America. Rutgers is not afraid to push through the barriers sometimes. All experience is good."

Going global, staying local

For several years, select Theater Arts students have made their mark on the other side of the pond by participating in an intensive yearlong conservatory program at Shakespeare's Globe in London. They tread the boards alongside master theater artists in a venue committed to William Shakespeare's work and the legendary 16th-century playhouse for which he wrote.

Now Mason Gross has extended its reach even further, to the World Wide Web. The school has quickly emerged as a leader in online instruction. The Mason Gross School's online instruction unit had 2,000 enrolled students for the 2009-2010 school year, more than any other unit at Rutgers. Early courses have included Introduction to Music, American Popular Song, and Introduction to Music Theory, all for credit. Plans are underway to expand online offerings.

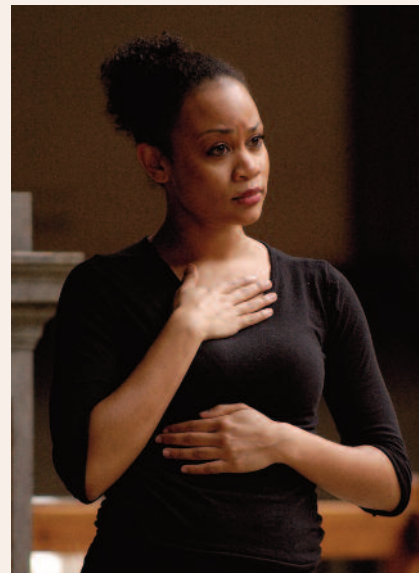
Antonius Bittmann, chair of the Music Department and recently named associate dean of online instruction at Mason Gross, says engaging 21st-century students online is essential.

"The younger generation of students prefers to go to the computer for informational purposes and entertainment," Bittmann says. "They grew up in a multimedia environment, so online courses are an ideal venue to learn and for us to get information across." He also points to the web's "convenience factor," which attracts students who are working professionals.

Bittmann says online instruction has burnished the Mason Gross School's global reputation, as courses attract non-traditional students worldwide.

"We had a soldier in Iraq taking a history course a year ago," Bittmann says. "It's on that scale."

In the meantime, Mason Gross is nourishing its roots right here in the city of New Brunswick. In the last year, the school has engaged the surrounding community like never before, via its new Extension Division. This vibrant arts program has solidified the Mason Gross School's connection to area residents, attracting a diverse group of more than 500 students—children, families, and seniors. This spring, the program ventures off campus for the



TOP: Rutgers Childrens Choir. ABOVE: A BFA Theater Arts student performs at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

first time, presenting free music programming to toddlers at the city's Puerto Rican Action Board.

The Extension Program provides top-notch arts instruction to students of all ages and skill levels. Offerings include an Indian Performing Arts Summer Camp; a noncompetitive creative dance program; the Rutgers Summer Jazz Institute; and an early-childhood music program.

"Mason Gross, to the community, was on a pedestal," says Julie Roth, director of the Extension Division. "Now kids see what undergrads and grads are doing, they attend performances...The community knows what Mason Gross is now. It's accessible and it's here for them. They get

Continued on next page

to see what goes on in the recital hall, and they get to play in the recital hall. They get a total experience."

Swathy Keshavamurthy's 4-year-old daughter, Aarushi Bansal, is enrolled in creative dance and the Young Maestros piano program.

"THE COMMUNITY KNOWS WHAT MASON GROSS IS NOW. IT'S ACCESSIBLE AND IT'S HERE FOR THEM. THEY GET TO SEE WHAT GOES ON IN THE RECITAL HALL, AND THEY GET TO PLAY IN THE RECITAL HALL. THEY GET A TOTAL EXPERIENCE."

— Julie Roth, director, Extension Division

Keshavamurthy says Aarushi's teachers have sparked her enthusiasm for the arts.

The teachers "come down to their level and let them explore and just enjoy

themselves," Keshavamurthy says. "There's a playful manner... There's a lot of playing and creativity."

But Keshavamurthy says she notices her daughter isn't merely having fun; she is acquiring technique, as well.

"She performed for our friends, an impromptu thing," Keshavamurthy says. "(And) now we know it was well worth all those Saturday mornings."

Creative exchange

The Mason Gross School's ambitions are expanding, too, as the school mounts an aggressive search for its very first admission director. Ideally, a savvy admissions director will be sensitive to the particular needs of young artists and will guide us as we seek to attract and retain the best and the brightest from around the country.

The school already has underscored its discrete identity by establishing a residence hall on the Douglass Campus within view of the Mason Gross Performing Arts Center. The Mason Gross Performing Arts



Aarushi Bansal participating in a dance program.

House, which opened in September 2009, is open to students from the Dance, Music, and Theater Arts departments.

The residence hall is designed to serve as a vital creative environment, affording Mason Gross students the opportunity to live and work together. A resident advisor plans trips and activities geared toward our students. In December, residents attended a performance at the nearby State Theatre in New Brunswick's lively downtown theater district.

"I really like it here because there are practice rooms in the basement," says first-year Music Education student Julianne Chandler. "My friends are music majors. You can say, 'Hey, will you go over this with me?' You don't have to make an appointment. It's all right there. This exposes you to more music than a nonmusic dorm would. It makes sharing music a lot easier."

Mason Gross Dean George B. Stauffer says he is pleased to see how students have taken to the residence hall.

"The mix of dance, music, and theater students has already led to a number of fruitful collaborations, and we anticipate many more in the future," he says. "We plan to construct additional practice facilities within the Performing Arts House—facilities that would allow our students to pursue their art practically 24/7. What better way to exchange shared passions?"

DANCE: SMART MOVE



Professor Barbara Bashaw, shown here with pre-K students, helms New Jersey's first graduate-level teacher-education program in dance.

With the recent launch of New Jersey's first graduate-level teacher-education program in dance, Mason Gross has emerged as a pioneer in dance education. The Dance Department now offers the only program in the nation that links BFA-degree major requirements to a master's-level degree in dance education and dance-teacher certification.

The Ed.M. program is helmed by Professor Barbara Bashaw and moves the Dance Department into graduate education for the first time in its history. The degree offers multiple tracks of study for both the aspiring and the experienced artist-teacher.

"We believe that a deeply informed artist is a part of the equation," Bashaw says. "Most teacher-preparation programs in dance are BA-based, with less artistry preparation than a BFA. We are building a vision not just for degree granting, but also to build a community of artist-teacher-learners. There are many incredible dance educators in and beyond the K-12 schools here in New Jersey who have built the roots of dance education here. We aim to be a center for cultivating their leadership."

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Music and Dance Wing Naming Opportunities

Thinking Big *Continued from page 6*

Building community

As the Mason Gross School evolves artistically and academically, its creative spaces must begin to reflect these shifts. To accommodate expanded enrollment and the school's growing reputation as a top-flight arts conservatory, Mason Gross plans to construct a new facility within its performing arts complex. Ideally, the new wraparound facility will meld with the existing venues, creating a cohesive and vibrant performing-arts hub. The building will integrate these structures in a practical and aesthetically pleasing way, reminding visitors of the school's central mission: not merely to educate, but to inspire. More specifically, it will provide 64,000 square feet of new space for the Music, Dance, and Extension Division programs.

Phase I of the building project, a new Music and Dance Wing, is under consideration; the goal is to break ground in January 2011. The 13,490-square-foot space will project from the south side of the Nicholas Music Center and will fulfill several of the school's most pressing facilities needs.

The Music and Dance Wing is "going to be the gateway to the complex. It will be a great draw," says Bob Mortensen. Mortensen serves as chair of the Mason Gross Advancement

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Phase I offers a variety of attractive naming opportunities:

Music and Dance Wing – \$2,500,000

This state-of-the-art facility will become a welcoming landmark on campus and offer 13,490 square feet of performing and practice space through its choral rehearsal hall and adjacent choral suite, airy and inviting public atrium with coffee and sandwich bar, well-equipped dance studio, technology studio, administrative offices, and practice studios. It provides an uncommon philanthropic opportunity to permanently name a well-designed and heavily used facility on the campus of Rutgers University.

Choral Hall – Funded by Robert E. Mortensen

The largest performance space in the Music and Dance Wing, a 3,100-square-foot choral hall opening upward over two stories, will provide a modern rehearsal facility for the five vocal ensembles. Because the hall has been designed for flexible use, it can also accommodate other ensembles in the Music Department when not occupied by choral groups.

Atrium – \$1,500,000

Sweeping upward over two stories with panoramic views of the Douglass ravine, the Raritan River, and the Marryott Music Building, the 3,681-square-foot atrium will serve as a gathering place for faculty, students, and visitors. It will open onto a new outdoor plaza and feature entrances from Nicholas Music Center and the Marryott Music Building. A coffee and sandwich bar will accommodate patrons of concerts and other arts events. A large interior balcony will provide additional seating space and allow for festive, elevated placement of performing forces. The atrium will foster faculty-student interaction and serve as a town square for the arts—the indoor, all-weather complement to the widely used Bettenbender Plaza, constructed in 2002.

Plaza – \$1,000,000

The atrium will open onto a new 1,089-square-foot outdoor plaza, a more intimate gathering space than Bettenbender Plaza. It will feature benches and tables for study, dining, and conversation, and attractive plantings. Like the adjacent atrium, the plaza is envisioned as a key element in creating a greater sense of community within the Mason Gross Performing Arts Center.

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Faculty News

Visual Arts faculty member **Thomas Nozkowski** was one of six university faculty members selected to deliver a Distinguished Faculty Talk in the lecture series sponsored by the vice president for research. Nozkowski, who just had a one-man show at Senior & Shopmaker Gallery in New York City, was the only nonscientist chosen to participate in this highly selective series.

Dance faculty member **Randy James** has been instrumental in developing a new course in Dance Appreciation. The course, which attracted more than 1,000 nonmajors this semester, exposes students to a wide variety of dance companies in the New York/New Jersey region and helps them to better understand the aesthetic assumptions behind the dances they see. Ideally, the success of this course helps cultivate a larger, more appreciative and knowledgeable audience for modern dance, and the healthy course enrollments help the department financially. In addition, James and

fellow Dance faculty member **Barbara Bashaw** have been instrumental in bringing the service organization Dance New Jersey to Mason Gross. Dance New Jersey is a consortium of New Jersey dance companies and schools whose mission is to promote dance. By providing office space to this organization, the Dance Department may be able to recruit more top students. Dance New Jersey's presence on campus also could spark new opportunities for collaborations and internships with professional dance companies and dance schools throughout the state.

Antonius Bittmann, chairman of the Music Department, together with faculty member **Richard Metzger**, has devised a series of successful online courses, thereby extending the reach of the Music Department and generating substantial income. In the face of



Professor Min Kwon performs at the Altenberg Music Festival outside of Vienna, Austria.

increasingly stark state budgets and decreasing state support for the university, it becomes more important than ever to consider how to deploy our resources to most effectively reach potential audiences. To that end, **Dean George B. Stauffer** created an associate dean position for Bittmann with the charge to collaborate with all four departments to further explore and develop online course offerings and to ensure that they meet the standards of our in-class offerings. Initially, Bittmann will perform these duties on a part-time basis as he makes the transition from his term as chair, which is set to expire in June 2011. In the interim, department Vice Chair **Scott Whitener** will help shoulder the some of the administrative duties associated with the chairmanship.

Karin Graybash, the sound technician for Theater Arts, was singled out in a recent review in *The New York Times*. Naomi Campbell called the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's production of *Hamlet* "stunning," noting that "the eerie, otherworldly soundscape by Karin Graybash, with snippets of recorded chant by the Harmonium Choral Society of Madison, gives you the chills."

Music faculty member **Gerald Chenoweth's** recent compositions have explored and reimagined certain rhythms found in Asian music. As part of this exploration, Chenoweth collaborated with choreographer and dancer Nai-Ni Chen to create *Earth*, one part of a five-piece set, *The Way of Five*, based on Chinese alchemy symbols; Chenoweth had also composed the music for *Fire* in the same set. *Earth* premiered as part of the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company's February 13

Continued on next page

Take a Bow

Mary Smith began at Mason Gross in 1987, shortly after the school was established. Jack Bettenbender was dean; departments and offices were scattered about wherever they could fit.

Before her retirement in February of this year, Mary had served with each succeeding dean. As might be expected, when Mary announced her retirement, everyone was eager to find out which dean she most enjoyed working with: Jack Bettenbender, Marilyn Somville, or George Stauffer. Mary, with characteristic diplomacy, responded: "All of them," noting that each dean had played a unique role in the evolution of the school.

When we speak about the Mason Gross School and its many achievements, we too frequently focus our gaze exclusively on faculty and students. The reality is that their achievements are realized through the behind-the-scenes efforts of exceptional staff members. Mary Smith is someone whose dedicated service and devotion to the school, its goals, and especially its students has made the work of each dean that much easier. Mary brought ability, integrity, and abiding kindness to everything she did.

Because of Mary Smith, Mason Gross has been able to move so much closer to its initial promise. After so many years playing a critical supporting role, it is well past due time for Mary to take center stage and take the bow she so richly deserves. We wish her well in retirement.



celebration of Lunar New Year at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. This the Year of the Tiger, an animal Chen describes as strong and powerful, qualities *Earth* mirrors in its music.

Dance faculty member **Robert "Tigger" Benford** composed and performed the percussion score for a **Kim Gibilisco** Dances performance of *Lensascompass* at Joyce SoHo in March. Gibilisco is an alumna of Mason Gross and a part-time faculty member. *The New Yorker* mentioned the precision of Gibilisco's dancing and particularly noted "the lovely live score by Tigger Benford."

The peripatetic **Martha Rosler**, Visual Arts, continues at breakneck pace with recent solo exhibitions: *Martha Rosler: La Casa, La Calle, La Cocina* at Centro José Guerrero in Granada, Spain; *Public and Private Places* at Espaivisor in Valencia, Spain; *If You Lived Here Still: An Archive Project* at e-flux gallery in New York City, and *Martha Rosler* in Shanghai.

Min Kwon, Music, performed several concerts in Austria last year with pianist Robert Lehrbaumer in all-Schubert recitals. The review in the *Niederösterreichischen*

Nachrichten newspaper was superlative: "Heavenly! International star pianists Min Kwon and Robert Lehrbaumer performed the four-hand works by Schubert, not only with great imperial dignity but also with a wealth of delightful Austrian charm... audiences were transported to Schubert's Heaven." Later this spring, Kwon will be leading her student pianists into Carnegie Hall to perform works of Chopin and Schumann. The students will also be performing the program on April 24 at the university's Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum as part of Rutgers Day.

Conrad Herwig, Music, has been touring internationally with Frank Sinatra Jr. He also performed on the CBS *Late Show with David Letterman* in December. Herwig and **Kynan Johns** recently brought the Rutgers Jazz Ensemble and Rutgers Symphony Orchestra to Symphony Space in New York City to perform with the legendary Paquito D'Rivera.

Israel Hicks, chairman of the Theater Arts Department, made theater history last year at the Denver Center Theatre Company: He became the first director to helm

August Wilson's entire 10-play, 10-decade cycle of works at the same theater company. Tony Award-winning actor Phylicia Rashad, who played the 285-year-old Aunt Ester in Broadway's *Gem of the Ocean*, said of the achievement: "I think Denver audiences have been most privileged to see all of these works through the lens of Israel Hicks. This is significant not just because Israel will have done this, but because of the director he is... What people in Denver have been able to see all these years is truth." An actor in the Denver Center productions noted that as far as the great achievements in American theater go, "this has to right up there among them."

Visual Arts faculty member **Hanneline Røgeberg** has been serving as visiting artist at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine, participating in a panel discussion at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts on Copenhagen, and exhibiting her work in several venues, including the University of Richmond Museums in Virginia, the David Nolan Gallery in New York City, and at the One Minute Film Festival in Copenhagen.

To Russia With Love

We all have that place we call home – not necessarily the place we were born, but the place that makes us feel found and known.

For **Diane Neumaier**, that place is Russia. She first visited the country, then the Soviet Union, in 1991. Neumaier, a photographer and the current chair of the Visual Arts Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts, spent most of the 1990s traveling back and forth between Russia and the United States.

"It took," she says. "I really liked it there. It really worked... It took like a virus. It was contagious, the excitement there."

Neumaier produced several photographic series, including 1994's *Moscow Street*, gritty black-and-white photomurals highlighting people moving through – and coming up against – the city.

Working and living in Russia in the '90s "meant escaping an American art world that was increasingly market-driven," Neumaier says. "... I entered at a very intoxicating moment... It was very easy to enter the arts scene."

In Neumaier's 40-plus years as a photographer, she has experimented with a variety of approaches and subject matter: In the '80s she explored representations of women; beginning in 2001, she mounted a traveling exhibition in tribute to her grandmother, a noted German opera singer who was killed in a Nazi concentration camp. The show, which is still traveling, includes photographs taken by her father, opera portraits, and other historical material, as well as Neumaier's own artwork.

At the moment, Neumaier is producing photograms, utilizing a technology that existed at the dawn of photography, in the mid-19th century. Images are produced without a camera by placing objects on photo-sensitive material and then exposing them to light. Several of Neumaier's abstracted photograms resemble origami objects; others seem to play with light and shadow.



Diane Neumaier, 1994, from the series *Moscow Street*, 28 x 40 inches.

Still, her "Russian period" lingers: In 2004, Neumaier curated an exhibit called *Beyond Memory: Soviet Nonconformist Photography and Photo-Related Works of Art* at the university's Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum and wrote and edited the accompanying anthology. And the habits Neumaier absorbed as a stranger in a foreign land appear to inform her work today.

"I was in a new place, not relying on language. I was profoundly affected by it," she says now. "I felt freed... because my Russian language was so pathetic. So I was always working on my eyes. The newness of it, the stimulation of it was really transformative, and the lack of language deprived me but enabled me to use my visual resources."

View Diane Neumaier's work online at www.dianeneumaier.com.



Kari Snedeker, Dance Alumna

Founder, Dance Express; donor, Dance Express Choreographers Prize

When you make the decision to pursue a degree in the arts, you are intent on developing your passion.

Once you arrive at Mason Gross School of the Arts, you quickly discover that this is not a place where your hand is held. Instead, you are challenged and encouraged as an artist to stimulate and evoke thoughts and feelings in both yourself and others.

Mason Gross is an ever-evolving institution that strives to be the best in providing new generations of student-artists with the tools necessary to enhance society through the arts. The school continues on a progressive track with unique program offerings and top-notch faculty that offer Mason Gross students unparalleled training.

My experience at Mason Gross was vital to my growth as an individual and as an artist. It is our responsibility as alumni

to enable future generations of artists to pursue their craft, as we have done.

Thanks to sustained support from alumni like us, Mason Gross can offer scholarships that will attract our best and brightest young artists. In addition, the school is able to improve programs and services.

Your generosity this year will help to provide for special exhibits and concerts, master classes by esteemed artists, and lectures by guests who would otherwise be unavailable to Mason Gross students. Your generosity will also contribute to scholarships and community programs.

In addition, Mason Gross needs our support to continue developing plans for a new Music and Dance Wing. The initial construction phase will include an atrium that will accommodate gatherings and collaborations by Mason Gross students.



Give to the Mason Gross Annual Fund

To make a gift to the Mason Gross School of the Arts, please contact the Office of Development at 732-932-9360, ext. 514, or use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation to the Office of Development, Mason Gross School of the Arts, 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Please make checks payable to the *Rutgers University Foundation*.

The Ovation Society

The Ovation Society of the Mason Gross School of the Arts honors those individuals who have established one or more endowed fund(s) in support of the school's students, programs, faculty, and facilities. Such funds enable Mason Gross to move into the future with a sense of confidence and artistic vision, as well as compete with peer institutions in the top tier. Endowment funds also offer benefactors the opportunity to link their names with the arts at Rutgers in perpetuity.

For information on establishing an endowment fund, please contact the Office of Development at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, 732-932-9360, ext. 514.

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 Henry and Helen Kauffman†
 David Lloyd and Carmen Kreeger†
 Gary* and Eddie Jean Kriedeman in honor of Kelly Kriedeman*
 Kenneth Kuchin in honor of James O. Dumont
 John LaMacchia in honor of Lyda Craig*
 Lois Lockfeld in honor of Eugene H. Lockfeld*
 Franklin J. Maryott in honor of Stephanie Morris Maryott†
 Edna S. Mason*
 Mason Gross School of the Arts in honor of Patricia Mayer
 Howard D. McKinney*
 Monmouth Arts Foundation, Inc.
 Robert E. Mortensen
 Elsie and Walter Naumburg†
 New Jersey Jazz Society
 Frank P. and Lilly A. Novak†
 W. Cary and Marjorie B. Nicholas†
 James and Edna Noet
 Ruth G. Picker in honor of Martin Picker*
 Marie Pirelli in honor of Kevin Pirelli*
 Edward W. Price*
 Lewis T. Rege* in honor of Lou Costello*
 David M. Reeves* and John V. Moore
 Rutgers Class of 1953
 Rutgers Glee Club Students and Alumni
 Rutgers Marching Band Alumni and Friends
 Joseph B. and Lita Saldarini in honor of Catherine Mortola Saldarini*
 W. Robert and Leona Scharet
 Lily Schrage*
 Marc Shapiro* in honor of Barbara Lingelbach*
 Jean V. Shaw*
 Richard H. Shindell
 Marilyn Somville and John Kazanjian*
 Marilyn Somville and Paul Trilling*
 J. Edward Stricker* in honor of Edna S. Mason*
 Percy Such*
 Joanne and Frank Sullebarger in honor of Donald Aspinall*
 Ray Stark *
 Margery J. Turner *
 Jacob Vreeland*
 Deborah B. and Selman A. Waksman†
 F. Austin Walter*
 Allan E. Warner*
 Patricia A. Williams in honor of Ethyl Gloria Kinney*
 Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Ford Motor Company in honor of Gregory Hines*

* Deceased individual

† Deceased couple

Alumni and Student News

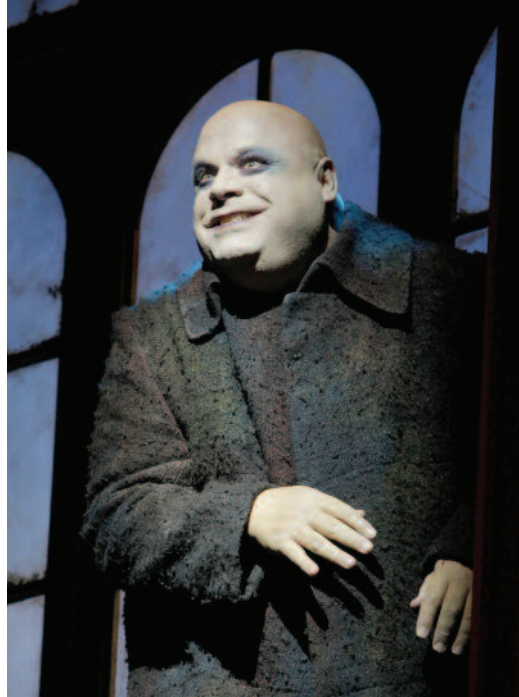
■ In a review of the current Whitney Biennial, art critic Peter Schjeldahl of *The New Yorker* said: "For me, the most arresting work in the Whitney Biennial is, not for the first time, by **Charles Ray**" (MFA Visual Arts). His review goes on at great length to praise the work of this Mason Gross-educated California-based artist. He closes his remarks on Ray by saying: "Ray is a gadfly conscience of a culture given to the myth that artists are free to do whatever they like."

■ **Mark Singer**, a current DMA student in percussion, performed on timpani with the New York Philharmonic in a premiere by the composer-in-residence, Magnus Lindberg. Singer's extraordinary opportunity was facilitated by Mason Gross faculty member and principle timpanist with the Philharmonic, Markus Rhoten. As Mason Gross Director of Orchestras Kynan Johns noted, the faith and confidence we have in our students' talent enable opportunities such as this where students are given the chance "to put their hands in the fire."

■ **Lauren Connolly's** (BFA Dance) piece *Ventilation Revisited* was chosen by the Mid-Atlantic Regional American Dance Festival to represent the region at a gala concert to take place at The Kennedy Center in late May. Her dance will also be a part of this spring's DancePlus performance in late April. Mason Gross dancers **Christina Lynch, Kyle Marshall, Valorie Morales, Nicholas Sciscione, Scott Schneider, and Jennifer Williams** are featured in the piece.

■ Mason Gross had two alumni honored at the Grammy Awards this year. **Terence Blanchard** was awarded the Grammy for best improvised jazz solo for his work on *Dancin' 4 Chicken*, and **Cristina Pato** (DMA Music) played Galician bagpipe on *Yo-Yo Ma and Friends: Songs of Joy and Peace*, which took home the Grammy for best classical crossover album. In addition, Dan Morgenstern of the Rutgers Newark Jazz Institute received the Grammy for best album notes for his text for *The Complete Louis Armstrong Decca Sessions (1935-1946)*.

■ Rutgers Day began last year as a way of showcasing the university to the communities that surround the campus. In its first year, it attracted more than 50,000 people who had the opportunity to interact with the faculty and students and to see all the activities the university engages in. This year Mason Gross students will be well-represented with **Dance students** performing site-choreographed pieces around campus, **piano students** performing works by Chopin and Schumann at the university's Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, **Theater Arts students** presenting clown, fight, and costume demonstrations on the Voorhees Mall, and **Visual Arts students**, faculty, and Brodsky Center for Innovative Editions staff hosting open studios, print and papermaking demonstrations, and a drawing marathon at the Civic Square building. In addition, the recently formed Mason Gross Extension Division will be presenting children's dance, children's choir, and percussion performances by its students on the Voorhees Mall. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Kevin Chamberlin as Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family* Broadway musical.

Saturday, April 24. Rutgers Day is a perfect opportunity for alumni to reconnect with the school and university. More information is available online at rutgersday.rutgers.edu.



■ Theater Arts alumnus **Adam Mucci** will be appearing in the new Barry Levinson film *You Don't Know Jack*, starring Al Pacino. He will also have a recurring role in the new HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*, directed by Martin Scorsese. The series hits close to home, chronicling Atlantic City in the early years of the 20th century. Coming after recent performances in *Public Enemies* and *Revolutionary Road*, Mucci's career is clearly on a roll.

■ Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring* ballet score is an American classic, as is Martha Graham's accompanying choreography. Choreographer Joshua Bisset explored the iconic nature of the work in an intensive with Mason Gross **Dance students**. The result of that collaboration was a re-imagining of the classic, a way of looking at something familiar in a new way. The Bay Atlantic Symphony recently performed this Mason Gross-generated work as part of a concert called *Rediscovering America* at Rowan University in January.

■ **Michael Esper**, Theater Arts, performed with Green Day on this year's Grammy Awards broadcast. Esper is in the cast of the new

Continued on next page



Michael Esper, second from left, performs in the Broadway musical *Green Day's American Idiot*, an adaptation of the rock band *Green Day's* 2004 album.

Broadway show *Green Day's American Idiot*, inspired by the rock trio's best-selling 2004 album. Esper is returning to Broadway after starring in Tony Kushner's play *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures*, which premiered in June at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. Jay Gabler's review in the *Twin Cities Daily Planet* noted: "The strongest performance, though, is by Michael Esper as the hustler... His scenes aren't the showiest... but they are at the play's heart."

■ Also on Broadway, fellow theater alumnus **Kevin Chamberlin** is performing in the role of Uncle Fester in a musical version of *The Addams Family*, which recently opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. The show stars Bebe Neuwirth and Nathan Lane.

■ Music students have been making the rounds in New York City recently with the **Symphony Orchestra** and **Jazz Ensemble** appearing with jazz great Paquito D' Rivera

at Symphony Space in March. The **Wind Ensemble** appeared there in November. Meanwhile, the **Collegium Musicum** performed downtown at The Church of Saint Luke in the Fields in January. In December, Tim Smith led the **Rutgers University Marching Scarlet Knights** to Madison Square Garden, where they attempted to bolster the fading New York Knicks by performing at half-time. The **Rutgers Drumline and Color Guard** performed in Times Square in November for the grand-opening of an American Eagle Outfitters flagship store.

■ Not to be outdone by Music, our **Visual Arts graduate students** have moved their thesis shows from the Mason Gross Art Galleries at Civic Square to the White Box Gallery on Broome Street in the Bowery in an exhibition running through May 2. The exhibit is part of the yearly *Rutgers In New York* performing- and fine-arts series that takes the school's disciplines to Manhattan. Opportunities such as these in New York City make the experience of being a Mason Gross student unique among other schools of the arts.

DEAN'S CHOICE



Priyam S. Sharma, from left, Dean George B. Stauffer, and Maria Giancola. Oil paintings by BFA Visual Arts students Sharma and Giancola have been selected for Dean's Choice. As part of the Dean's Choice honor, student works are displayed in the dean's office.



The Rutgers Drumline and Color Guard played Times Square in November.

Stay In Touch!

New job? New house?

If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, business information or name, we want to know.

Please contact us at:

alumni@masongross.rutgers.edu

Send new contact information along with your full name (include your surname from your student days), major, and class year.

MAKING MERRY Mason Gross School of the Arts Alumni Holiday Reception

On Dec. 14, Mason Gross School of the Arts graduates gathered at New World Stages in New York City for the annual Alumni Holiday Reception. Alums, professors, and other old friends caught up and nibbled on passed hors d'oeuvres. The reception was abuzz with laughter and lively chatter.



Former Theater Arts professor Eric Krebs, left, makes sure he has the full attention of Theater Arts alumnus Bill Bowers as he addresses the crowd.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars, punch it into your BlackBerry, scribble it on the back of your hand: The next Alumni Holiday Reception is **Dec. 13, 2010**, in New York City. Location details to follow.



Dance alumni enjoy catching up with Dance Department chair Paulette Sears. Meagan Woods, from left, Shannon MacDowell, Sears, and Anthony Bordonaro.

Thinking Big *Continued from page 7*

Council, a group that assists the dean and the executive committee in fundraising efforts. "It will be a breakthrough for Mason Gross in terms of both modernizing and configuring its physical plant to address the 21st century and the expanded enrollment in Dance and Music."

THE PROPOSED MUSIC AND DANCE WING "WILL BE A BREAKTHROUGH FOR MASON GROSS IN TERMS OF BOTH MODERNIZING AND CONFIGURING ITS PHYSICAL PLANT TO ADDRESS THE 21ST CENTURY AND THE EXPANDED ENROLLMENT IN DANCE AND MUSIC."

— Bob Mortensen,
chair Advancement Council

One of the Mason Gross School's steepest challenges has been consolidating existing buildings, providing additional performance halls and studios for Music and Dance, which have doubled their enrollments in the last decade, and providing



To view a video documenting life at the Mason Gross Performing Arts House, visit www.youtube.com/rutgerstoday and enter "Arts Living Community."

state-of-the-art spaces that meet the needs of 21st-century artists.

Dance Department chair Paulette Sears and Music Department chair Antonius Bittmann say space issues are paramount.

"When we began our BFA program in dance almost 30 years ago, there were exactly three full-time faculty and no staff," Sears says. "Today, we are at eight full-time faculty with an adjunct faculty of 13, and a staff of two. Absolutely, we have outgrown our current circumstances ... Not crowding

more people into less space will make a considerable difference in maintaining the high level of achievement in our program."

Bittmann agrees.

"The addition of administrative offices is also timely as we need to expand our staff to keep up with the overall growth of department operations," he points out. "The planned cafeteria will offer a space for students and faculty to mingle on a more informal basis, which should strengthen our sense of

Continued on next page

Dance: Smart Move *Continued from page 6*

The program's mission: to sustain and support this community of teacher-learners and to demonstrate a commitment to cultivating the diverse artistic voices of children, adolescents, and young adults.

Bashaw says she believes that dance as it is taught outside the school system is "not accessible, unless you have the economic means or extraordinary talent that someone will give you a scholarship. We know those are few and far between." Conversely, in the public schools dance training is within reach of everyone, regardless of skill level or economic means.

Still, Bashaw says she knows from the outset that the Ed.M. program must confront long-held stereotypes about dance.

"The idea is that children are just there to replicate movement, the 'dumb dancer,'" Bashaw says. "The stereotype is that the body doesn't contribute to intelligence. Cognitive research has shown that the body contributes enormously to our intelligence. A big misconception is that (dance) is a thoughtless process and doesn't require much of a human being to do. From the kids' perspective, the idea is that, 'You're going to (put) us in tutus.'"

But Bashaw insists that dance education in the schools is crucial to a well-rounded education. She cites The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a national group whose mission is to champion 21st-century readiness for all students. The Partnership points to the importance of "learning and innovation skills."

In a well-rounded dance education, Bashaw says, students are innovating as they create their own dances and relate dance to history and culture.

"Collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity and innovation," Bashaw says, ticking off an extensive list of skills mentioned by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. "Who does this better than the arts?"



Thinking Big *Continued from page 14*

community and facilitate socializing across somewhat rigid departmental boundaries.”

Mortensen says the current Music Department facility is “not a place to gather.” He says the space in the new complex will encourage cross-pollination among the departments, as graduate and undergraduate students mingle and artists in various disciplines interact on a regular basis.

Ideally, the space will be more than just bricks, mortar and glass: It will serve as a destination, a structure that is at once monumental and intimate.

“The atrium and plaza will provide additional opportunities for students and faculty to relax, congregate, and converse,” Dean Stauffer says. “The Music and Dance Wing will make us more competitive with peer conservatories and provide our students with spacious and updated arts facilities.”

The Mason Gross School enters the new decade with hope and vigor. We’re not that scrappy little school anymore, producing work in repurposed department stores and U.S. Army barracks; but we continue to embrace new challenges on campus and beyond with that same creativity and innovation. ☺

Naming Opportunities *Continued from page 7*

Choral Suite – \$500,000

The suite, on the first floor adjacent to the choral hall, will provide break-out spaces for parts rehearsals as well as administrative and storage rooms for the choral program.

Technology Studio – \$500,000

On the second floor of the Music and Dance Wing, the technology studio will provide the Music Department with the high-tech recording and engineering space it needs to establish the long-desired music technology program. It is essential for music students to understand and embrace music technology as a critical part of making and reproducing music.

Dance Suite – \$250,000

Student enrollments have doubled in the Dance program over the past four years, and the department now offers graduate study through its recently launched master of education program in dance education. The dance suite, on the second floor of the Music and Dance Wing, will provide additional faculty and administrative offices.

Practice Studios – \$50,000 each

With more than 350 students enrolled in music performance, the need for additional practice studios has become acute. Phase I will provide three new practice studios, appropriately equipped and soundproofed.

In addition to providing these new facilities, Phase I will enable the creation of a new space for the Theater Arts Department through the retrofitting of a vacated music space in Walters Hall:

Black Box Theater – \$500,000

The construction of the Music and Dance Wing, with its flexible choral hall, will allow the Music Department to vacate Room 240 in Walters Hall. This large space can be converted into a much-needed black box theater for the Theater Arts Department. This new performance space would replace Jameson Theater, which is subject to flooding during the fall and spring rainy seasons.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JOHN LAMACCHIA

John LaMacchia used to think art was just a hobby. Then he met his wife.

Lyda Craig, a 1998 graduate of the Mason Gross School of the Arts, helped her husband appreciate art in a whole new way. Craig had earned a master’s degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers Camden and worked for a time at the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, where she met her husband; but as LaMacchia tells it, art tugged at her. Upon entering Mason Gross, Craig chose a concentration in painting.

“She could never really shut down the passion that she had for art,” LaMacchia says. “I never had an art class in my life. It was Lyda who exposed me to art...To artists, art is as critical to their living as breathing is.”

Craig died in 2002 at age 40, of a brain tumor. Three years later, LaMacchia established the Lyda J. Craig Endowed Fund. The fund provides financial assistance for Mason Gross students studying painting, sculpture, or ceramics. LaMacchia says he created the fund to help others pursue their artistic passion, just as Craig pursued hers.

“Even at the last, when she was in her hospital bed, she was still trying to draw,” LaMacchia says. “The tumor didn’t win because it never killed her passion for art.”

Craig’s artwork will be part of a fall 2010 exhibit at the Mason Gross Art Galleries.



Lyda Craig and John LaMacchia

For more information on how to establish a scholarship fund in memory of a loved one, please contact the Office of Development at 732-932-9360, ext. 514.

In Memoriam



■ William "Prof" Fielder

I would not be where I am today if it weren't for one professor who made a difference in my life: William Butler Fielder, better known to his friends and students as "Prof."

Author William Arthur Ward once stated: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." If there is one word to describe Prof, it is inspirational.

I was one of his very first students at Rutgers. I do not believe a day went by when Prof did not offer words of encouragement or a higher idea to ponder.

When you've been a student of Prof's, it is as if you belong to a special brotherhood. You share something with every one of his students, whether you attended school with them or not.

Who can forget his saying, "Son, you have to irradiate your retroactive inhabitations"; or "Take in some air"; or even better, "You can never be satisfied, only gratified."

But these sayings did not make the man; Prof's commitment to his students and to the world of music did.

As I mentioned, the word that epitomized Prof was inspirational, meaning "in spirit." Prof's spirit resides in all his students and friends.

In the early 1980s, I was dating Lynn, the woman who would eventually become my wife. We were attending the New Jersey Music Educators Conference, and I knew that Prof would be giving a lecture. As one of his many personal "valets" during his early years at Rutgers, I knew it was my duty to show up early to help Prof, who suffered from glaucoma and had trouble with his sight.

Another student was driving him to the conference, and I knew my job was to help when he arrived. No one asked me to do this; I just knew.

Prof arrived, and another student and I escorted him to where he needed to be, one of us walking in front and one walking in back to make sure he didn't fall.

We got him to the room, helped set up his instruments, got him a cup of coffee, and respectfully waited for him to finish his lecture.

After the lecture, the entire process replayed itself until he was in the car ready to be driven home. Lynn watched the entire thing.

After witnessing this entire production, she turned to me and said: "You don't look after me like that!" To which I replied: "Well...you're not Prof."

A famous saying of the Buddha is: "Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." The candles that Prof lit are legion, and they will continue to burn for years.

— Steve Dillon, *BA Music*

A memorial scholarship has been established in honor of "Prof" and his contributions to the jazz field and to the Mason Gross School of the Arts. If you are interested in donating to the "Prof" William B. Fielder Scholarship Fund, please send your check made payable to the Rutgers University Foundation to Mason Gross Office of Development, 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901. If you would like to make a donation via credit card, please call 732-932-9360, ext. 514.

■ Wanda Maximilien

Wanda Maximilien, long-time member of the piano faculty in the Music Department, passed away on December 20, 2009, in Sarasota, Fla., after a year-long illness.

Professor Maximilien ("Maxe"), a Juilliard graduate, joined the Rutgers College faculty in 1971 and continued teaching at Mason Gross until her retirement in 2001. Maximilien was a champion of contemporary music, premiering numerous works for piano, including composer Robert Moevs' *Concerto for Piano, Orchestra, and Percussion*.

In the mid-1990s she instituted a series of "Dialogues" featuring works of Rutgers composers in a staged conversation involving the composers and their works. Her commitment to creating culturally diverse musical programs was recognized at the 1999 Rutgers University commencement ceremonies, where she received one of the first annual Human Dignity Awards.

Maximilien had endless energy, which she often threw into helping support others: students, faculty, friends, prison inmates, and the infirm. In my own case, she was a strong proponent of my music and worked tirelessly with me on one of the aforementioned "Dialogues." One day she told a young graduate, "He's perfect for you." That "he" was me. The young graduate and I were married a few years later.

Wanda was true free spirit, and we'll greatly miss her.

— Richard A. Chrisman, *professor of music*



Trumpeter and composer Wynton Marsalis, once a student of William "Prof" Fielder, jams with Professor Conrad Herwig in a tribute to Prof at Nicholas Music Center. Fielder died on September 24, 2009.

The Mason Gross School of the Arts community reports with great sadness the loss of alumni and friends of the school. We extend our condolences to each of their families and classmates.

- Ms. Hildegard Bergeim – 11/20/2001, Visual Arts, BA 1947
- Ms. Anne Westerhoff Carlomagno – 2/18/2003, Visual Arts, BA 1932
- Mrs. Ruth Nissley Dunton – 10/7/2009, Visual Arts, BA 1943
- Mr. Jerry M. Kupchynsky – 11/22/2009, Music Education, ME 1961
- Mrs. Katalin N. Merkl – 9/25/2009, Music, BA 1960
- Ms. Kathleen A. Poole – 11/14/2007, Visual Arts, BA 1990
- Dr. Francis A. Sakiey – 10/3/2009, Music, DOE 1973
- Mrs. Kathleen P. Thomas – 12/7/2009, Visual Arts, MA 1965

All death notifications included in this issue of our newsletter were submitted to the university after our last issue in fall 2009 and before going to press on this issue. We apologize for any omissions and ask that loved ones of deceased alumni, friends, donors to the school, faculty, and staff notify us by emailing us at records@winants.rutgers.edu. Please be sure to include the full name of the deceased (and name as a student, if it was different), death date, class year, and major. Thank you.

Camping It Up

Mason Gross Extension Division offers a wide array of summer camps

Dave Eisenreich wakes with a start. It's 1:30 a.m. in July; the campus should be dark and quiet. The Mason Gross student ventures down the hall to investigate, only to find that the high school band and orchestra camp students he is under strict orders to supervise have snuck out of their rooms...to practice chamber music.

These are the kinds of eager kids we have the privilege of hosting each summer. Just as our graduates exit the school and make their entrance into professional life, we welcome aspiring young musicians, dancers, and actors to campus for a taste of the Mason Gross experience.

Those determined enough to be among the 38 high school students accepted into the **Rutgers Summer Acting Conservatory (June 27-July 25, 2010)** spend an intense month on our campus. Their daily training includes classes in acting, movement, and voice/speech. They participate in master classes, directing, singing, intensive workshops, and classes in theater history, theater

"WHEN [THE STUDENTS] FIRST ARRIVE, THEY ARE BOTH TERRIFIED AND EXCITED... THEY LEAVE WITH RENEWED HOPE AND, CLEARLY, MORE ABILITY."

— Marshall Jones, RSAC director

appreciation, and stage craft. Other activities include weekly trips to New York City for major theater productions, followed by discussion and analysis.

Over the course of the month, the students gain technique. At the



conclusion of the program, they have mastered the fundamentals of acting. Marshall Jones, Mason Gross faculty member and RSAC director, describes the process as "thrilling."

"When [the students] first arrive, they are both terrified and excited," Jones says. "They leave with renewed hope and, clearly, more ability."

What teens gain from this preview of conservatory training goes far beyond their newly acquired skills.

"Some students realize that acting is too much and they aren't cut out for it," Jones says. This understanding is critical because it may prevent anxiety later. Others maintain the bonds they made with RSAC students and faculty through their college years. Jones and the other conservatory faculty have had the pleasure of watching many former RSAC students blossom into successful young actors.

2010 summer programs include:

■ DANCE

Dancers ages 12-18 may study contemporary modern dance, ballet, improvisation, and repertory with renowned faculty from our Dance Department during the weeklong **Rutgers Dance Camp (July 5-10, 2010)** directed by Mason Gross dance faculty member John Evans. The week includes a field trip to New York City to attend a dance concert and concludes with a public showing of participants' work.

Those who plan to pursue a career in dance may opt to attend the **two-week conservatory program (July 12-24, 2010)** designed to prepare the intermediate and advanced dancer to enter a college program and realize his/her goals in the dance world. Students attend daily classes in ballet and modern dance. Additional classes

Continued on next page

include modern partnering, modern and ballet repertory, jazz, hip-hop, and improvisation. The two weeks incorporate a day of master classes with New York-area artists, a field trip to New York City to attend a dance concert, and research into the country's top dance programs. The conservatory concludes with a performance of material learned and created.



son's] eyes and widened his perception as to what jazz means."

■ BAND/ORCHESTRA

During the Rutgers **Summer Band and Orchestra Camp (July 11-16, 2010)**, students in grades 8 to 12 enjoy a week of intense musical training at Mason Gross and perform under the batons of renowned conductors, including faculty member Darryl Bott and Jeffrey Grogan from the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to daily large-ensemble rehearsals, students participate in group lessons, clinics, master classes, electives such as conducting, music theory, reed-making, drum circle, and yoga, and sectional rehearsals. Percussionists work on percussion-ensemble literature and learn world-drumming techniques from Mason Gross alum Mike Ramsey, who performs in *The Lion King* on Broadway. Brass students collaborate with the renowned brass quintet Boston Brass.

■ OPERA

The new Rutgers **Summer Opera Camp (July 18-23, 2010)** is under the direction of Michael Ashby. Students ages 14-18 prepare scenes from operas and operettas in addition to participating in master classes with Mason Gross faculty members. They also attend costuming workshops, opera

history classes, and staging/blocking sessions. The camp culminates in a final performance.

■ INDIAN PERFORMING ARTS

Younger children are not left out of the summertime fun. The Rutgers **Indian Performing Arts Summer Camp (June 27-July 2, 2010)** provides children ages 8-15 with exposure to the richness of Indian music, dance, and culture. Some of the most respected musicians and dancers from India convene on the New Brunswick campus to share their art forms. Students take part in daily yoga classes, vocal training, rhythm sessions, dance and movement classes, instrumental training, audio-visual sessions, and discussion forums.

■ CHILDREN, AGES 6-12

Kids Create, a summer camp for ages 6-12 designed to fill children's summer days with music, dance, theater, and visual arts, launches this summer (**August 2-6 and 9-13, 2010**). Mason Gross faculty, alums, and graduate students help children develop their imaginations and technical skills through drawing, painting, collage, movement, music, improvisational theater, creative dramatics, and playwriting. Through arts exploration, children can investigate their potential while engaging in creative activities.

■ JAZZ

Last summer, our jazz faculty shared their expertise with 48 young musicians during the first **Rutgers Summer Jazz Institute**, a weeklong program that gives students ages 13-20 the opportunity to hone their talents with the master artists on faculty.

The institute provides a comprehensive workshop environment for students who wish to improve their jazz improvisation and ensemble skills. Those accepted into the institute participate in daily listening sessions, master classes, and large-ensemble and small-group rehearsals with jazz greats. Evening activities include faculty recitals, a trip to New York City, and a trip to the legendary Cecil's jazz club in West Orange for an on-stage jazz jam of their own.

The opportunity to spend a week (**July 25-30, 2010**) in the institute's intimate setting, learning from the best in the industry, is tremendous. One parent told staff that the institute "really opened [my

Join Us This Summer!

For more information about Mason Gross Extension Division Summer Programs, call Julie Roth, director, at 732-932-9360, ext. 512, email

summercamp@masongross.rutgers.edu, or visit www.masongross.rutgers.edu/extension.

ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

Debra Ann Taeschler

Debra Ann Taeschler was certain she would end up a starving artist—that is, until she realized she didn't like starving.

Shortly after graduation, Taeschler, a Rutgers Newark Fine Arts alumna, decided that she would not be able to make a living as an artist; instead, she accepted a job in advertising.



"I gained experience and developed a strong vision of what the business should be — operationally, creatively and strategically," Taeschler says.

In 1986, Taeschler decided to take a risk: leave her job to establish a start-up advertising agency in her basement. The Chester-based GraficaGroup has gone on to become an award-winning, full-service advertising agency. Clients have included high-profile companies such as AT&T, PSE&G, and Morgan Stanley.

It is no surprise that Taeschler's passion for the arts led her back to where it all began. She describes her years at Rutgers as "a great time to be in the arts. The hippie generation was coming to an end, Newark was full of diversity, and SoHo was not yet commercialized."

In 2008, Taeschler joined the Mason Gross Advancement Council, a voluntary advisory board whose mission is to assist with the improvement of the school and the enhancement of its educational resources.

Taeschler serves as chair of the Recruitment Committee, which at the moment is reviewing the student-recruitment process for each of the four departments. The committee plans to share its findings with the Dean and provide recommendations for improvement.

**"THE ARTS ARE A GREAT EQUALIZER
ACROSS CULTURES, RACE, ETHNICITY, AGE —
WE CAN ALL RELATE TO
THE ARTS ON A HUMAN LEVEL."**

— Debra Ann Taeschler

Taeschler says she is awed by the depth and sophistication of the artistry at Mason Gross.

"It really knocked me off my feet!" she says.

Ultimately, Taeschler says she was also impressed by the talent that has emerged from the school and wanted to spread the word on the importance of the arts.

"The arts are a great equalizer across cultures, race, ethnicity, age," she says. "We all can relate to the arts on a human level."

Donor Honor Roll: Annual Giving

The Mason Gross School of the Arts would like to thank all the individuals, foundations, corporations, organizations, and associations who generously support the school each year. The following list includes gifts received from July 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009. Though space requires that we limit our listing, Mason Gross has benefited from many gifts of less than \$1,000. Regardless of the amount, annual donations play a critical role in advancing the mission of the Mason Gross School. We thank all of our donors for helping us achieve excellence!

PLATINUM CIRCLE — \$100,000 and above

Adam K. Levin
Philip and Janice Levin Foundation
Lilly Novak*

GOLD CIRCLE — \$50,000-\$99,999

William G. Becker

SILVER CIRCLE — \$25,000-\$49,999

Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation

DEAN'S CIRCLE — \$10,000-\$24,999

Douglas and Inyoung Boyd Foundation
Sharon E. Karmazin
The Karma Foundation
Louise Morris
Robert E. Mortensen
Joseph B. and Lita Saldarini

PRODUCER'S CIRCLE — \$5,000-\$9,999

Kenneth and Ellen Aidekman
The Kenneth Aidekman Family Foundation
W. John Bauer
Nancy B. Boucher
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* Deceased individual

MASON GROSS PRESENTS: SUMMER SERIES 2010



Professor Conrad Herwig will perform with the Rutgers Jazz Faculty on July 28.



The Klezmatiks return July 21.



Sudha Devulapalli performs during Jugalbandi in June 2009.

SUMMER SERIES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 27, 2010	2 p.m.	Megha-Dutam (Cloud Messenger)
Wednesday, July 14, 2010	8 p.m.	Boston Brass
Wednesday, July 21, 2010	8 p.m.	The Klezmatiks
Wednesday, July 28, 2010	8 p.m.	Rutgers Jazz Faculty

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN NICHOLAS MUSIC CENTER.
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